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CANADIAN HOME JOURNAL

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EDITORIAL CHAT

THE AUGUST MAGAZINES are not as a rule filled with useful and informing articles, to the exclusion of lighter material. The last month of the summer is the playtime of the year for most of us, and consequently, the editor takes temperature into consideration and endeavors to give the readers only the most entertaining fare. We honestly hope that our paper friends are enjoying themselves so much in a brief respite from the day's work that they will appreciate our desire to give them a number of summer enjoyment. The serial story, "The House of Windows," by Mrs. MacKay, is becoming more enthralling with each installment, as you learn more of the mysterious heroine and appreciate her trials. In this issue we are giving you more than the usual number of chapters, in the hope that this extra supply of serial fiction will divert you for an August afternoon. The adventures of the happy young persons in "A Honeymoon in Hiding" continue to be most amusing and entertaining. This story will be concluded in our September number and we are sure it has been appreciated by all our readers. "Mrs. Jim's Holiday" in our July number has appealed to a wide class, if we may judge from the comments which have reached us. "Every husband in Ontario should read that story," was the emphatic comment of one reader, who considered that the "lesson" of the story was most impressive. This month's contribution from Miss Miles, "Dame Nature, Human Nature, and the Beaver Dam" is a bright and seasonable narrative of a camping-out. "At the Gate of Silence" is a rather creepy and uncanny tale which will give you a chilly sensation, not unwelcome in the month of August.

THE DOMESTIC DEPARTMENT, however, has not been overlooked, and you will find in the August pages the usual articles on this work. Miss Jessie E. Rorke deals with the matter of household decoration from the standpoint of one who considers the beautiful rather than the expensive. There is a false idea, cherished by some, that, in order to have an attractive home, it is necessary to spend lavishly. Miss Rorke discusses this theory extensively and upholds the artistic idea, which has nothing essentially to do with expenditure. These articles are well worth your consideration, and letters addressed to Miss Rorke will be cheerfully answered.

AROUND THE HEARTH has a rather overwhelming suggestion for the summer months, when we are all as far away from a fireplace as we can be. "Around the Bon-fire" might be more in keeping with the heart-to-heart talks of a summer evening. Still, whatever season it may be, you will find Jennie Allen Moore's page a comfortable spot for a good quarter-of-an-hour. This time, she talks about the annual meeting of the National Council of Women, which was held at Port Arthur during the month of June. Jennie Allen Moore's comments thereon are both shrewd and discriminating, and we are sure that the

women who are interested in philanthropic and social questions will be concerned in her experience of the large and representative gathering of Canadian women. This department has steadily grown in our readers' confidence and liking, and we are sure that, whatever you may decide to "skip," it will not be Jennie Allen Moore's page.

OUR RURAL READERS may be inclined to consider the article on the "slum disease" rather out of their sphere, and leave it for the perusal of city readers. The country, fortunately, does not have to face the housing problem, and is reasonably sure of a pure milk supply. If you will consider this matter beneath the surface, however, you will find that the slum question affects the community at large. There cannot be such a plague spot in a city, without its exerting an evil influence throughout the whole country. The recent report of the Medical Health Office of Toronto shows the urgent need for prompt action in Ontario's capital if the slum districts are going to be abolished. Winnipeg, with its wonderful growth and cosmopolitan crowds, has difficult slum questions to face. Montreal, with its large foreign influx and its high rate of infant mortality, may well take the matter of slum abolition into serious consideration. In an article on this question in the present issue, Mr. James Acton, who is practically acquainted with "ward" problems of pure milk supply and decent housing, surveys the situation, in so far as Canada is concerned, thoroughly and sympathetically, indicating a sane and safe method for dealing with that part of the city which threatens to become submerged.

THE GIRLS' CLUB is in a flourishing condition, and we are always glad to hear from our young friends. Photographs in connection with the work of the Girl Guides will be especially welcome.

OUR WOMEN'S INSTITUTES are loyal in their support of that department. A member writing recently says:—"It seems to me that it would be well to find out from Mr. Putnam what particular line of work the Woman's Institute have undertaken and carried out successfully in any part of the province, and which, according to his estimation, is coming the nearest to fulfilling the object, which is 'to raise the general standard of health and morals of our people.' Then give that particular work all the praise on the Institute page, that could possibly be due to it. Personally, I think that to be good Institute workers we must become very unselfish. To live for others should be part of our motto, and I would advise that work that has shown that spirit should come first. I do think that the work of cleaning neglected cemeteries is one that should receive especial praise. I also am a believer in the W. I. providing rest rooms for tired mothers and children, and where convenient to use same for entertaining young girls and boys in the evening instead of having so many young people on our town streets to such a late hour so many days, 'or rather nights.'"

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